

From: larry johnson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 5:27pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear People:

I believe the deal made with the DOJ against Microsoft is poor and dangerous. It was proved that Microsoft is a monopoly and has used this power to destroy competitors as well as using those profits to acquire other key pieces of technology. Now the remedy lets them off the hook with no more than a finger wagging and gives them the green light to continue their ways. Not only is their browser technology firmly entwined, now their music player and messaging tools are being bundled with the operating system. Lets not stop there cause they are after authentication as well with passport. All these products tie back to the windows empire. No ones deserves to own and control so much of the market as Microsoft. No one can go against it. Not even open source which represents the right of the common man/programmer to create programs by his own hand and mind. I'm not a lawyer, but in reading some of the articles out there it seems clear all concessions made by microsoft only involve revealing code and maybe licensing that code to be used by another company. But what isn't given is the right of non commercial (open source) companies to use revealed code by Microsoft free of all encumbrances to its use and implementation. I think a better deal should of removed certain technology from Microsoft domain. Should of identified API's and certain key technologies to sharing information and working equally with windows OS products for all to use with no restrictions. Microsoft should also have to re-engineer their products such that all applications must be independent of the OS. For example IE should be completely removable from the OS without harming the OS. Also a competitor must be able to completely replace IE with its product. Microsoft should not be allowed to control any interface that might control and charge customers for data. For example Microsoft should not control and own authentication services, music services, movie services. At best they must provide an interface that others would layer on top of that would sell its own data types (music, movies, etc.). This kind of stuff only covers for the future. Microsoft has already crushed competitors and products as well as acquired new technology by its illegal profits. To compensate for that their should be a give back. Fines levied against Microsoft that went to companies that lost out to Microsoft, companies competing and against microsoft and very importantly to Open source projects. Lastly their should be a tax levied against Microsoft that is equal to any charges made for usage given back to the community (open source and commercial). For instance lets say microsoft lets a company use its music player to deliver music to its customers for say a dime a song. Well Microsoft should be taxed a dime a download to remove all profit from those key technologies and that money should go to the other competitors. Only when a piece of technology be fairly opened to all can will that tax be removed, at which point this area should be a competitive area for all technologies. Remember Microsoft plays dirty you need a strong hand to keep them inline. I know cause I have been in the lan admin and developer field for many years. I have made recommendations to my employer in the past that said use Microsoft products such as Word not cause it was the best or cheapest but because I knew Microsoft didn't play fair. Since we ran on Microsoft Windows I knew our current product Word Perfect would be suspiciously broken by the OS. Rather than fight against Microsofts evil ways I recommended switching to their side. You can right that wrong. At least a little.

best wishes
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